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### **CLAIMS**

1. Counterweight, connectable to a washing machine tub (2), comprising an hollow  
20 shell (3) of U-shaped cross-section for containing a concrete ballast mass (4) poured  
therein, **characterized in that** said shell (3) is integrally provided in one piece with at least  
a foldable member (5) adapted to close at least a portion of said shell (4) in order to  
encapsulate said concrete ballast mass (4).

2. Counterweight according to claim 1, **characterized in that** said foldable member (5)  
25 comprise a cover extending from a peripheral edge (8) of said shell (3) in correspondence  
to enlarged lower portions (6) thereof, said peripheral edge (8) integrally provides pivotal  
sections (9) adapted to facilitate the ~~rotation~~ of said foldable member (5) around the  
peripheral edge (8) so that the ballast mass contained in the enlarged lower portion (6) are  
covered by said foldable member (5).

30 3. Counterweight according to claim 2, **characterized in that** said foldable member (5)  
has a peripheral edge comprising a clamping rim (10) adapted to engage a corresponding  
edge of said shell (3) to close the enlarged lower portion (6) and encapsulate the ballast  
mass (4).